

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS
AND MEETING**

January 14

Annual Meeting – Dues for
2004 payable

April 7

Board of Directors Meeting

April 23

St. George's Day

June 2-June 12

BIA Trip to England & France

June 6

60th Anniversary
Commemoration Event of
D-Day Event at the National
D-Day Memorial

June 30

Board of Directors Meeting

June 21

Students return from England/
France Exchange Visit

July 10

4th Annual Bastille Day
Picnic

September 22

Board of Directors Meeting

November 3

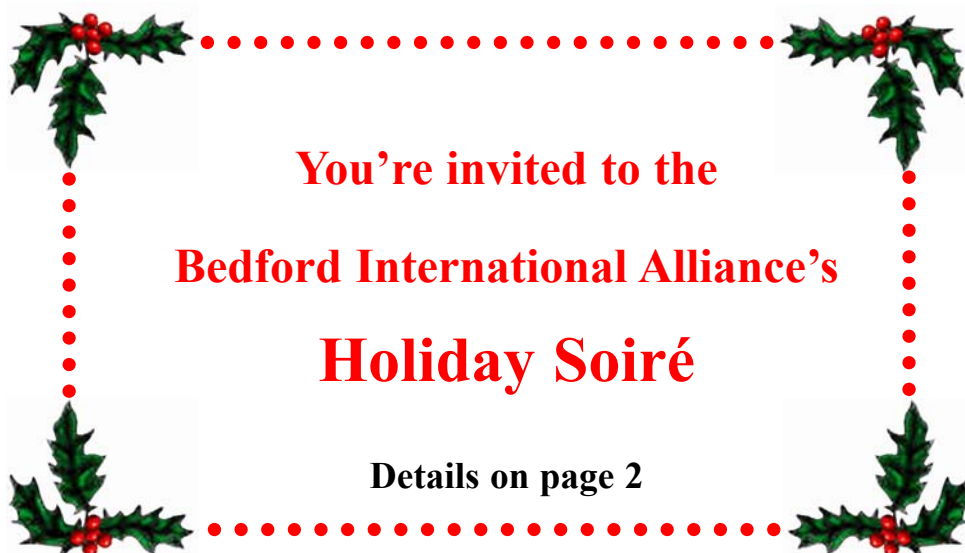
Board of Directors Meeting;
2005 planning and plans for
Member Social Event

December 3

Holiday Soiré

**Visit our website to see
the latest updates:**

www.ci.bedford.va.us/alliance



**You're invited to the
Bedford International Alliance's
Holiday Soiré**

Details on page 2

**Nominating Committee Report —
Slate of Officers for 2005**

The Nominating Committee Report was presented at the November 3 Board Meeting. Voting for the officers will be held at the January meeting of the general membership. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Tom Messier

Mike Shelton

Jack Gross, Chairman

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**USS Normandy Hosts BIA
Members for a Day**

By Craig Meadows

On Tuesday, July 27, 20 members of the Bedford International Alliance traveled to Norfolk for a visit they will not soon forget – a ride aboard the United States Navy ship USS Normandy.

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You're invited...



BEDFORD INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE, INC.
P.O. Box 951
Bedford, Virginia 24523

The Board of Directors of the
Bedford International Alliance, Inc.
and
Will and Libby Berry
cordially invite you to attend

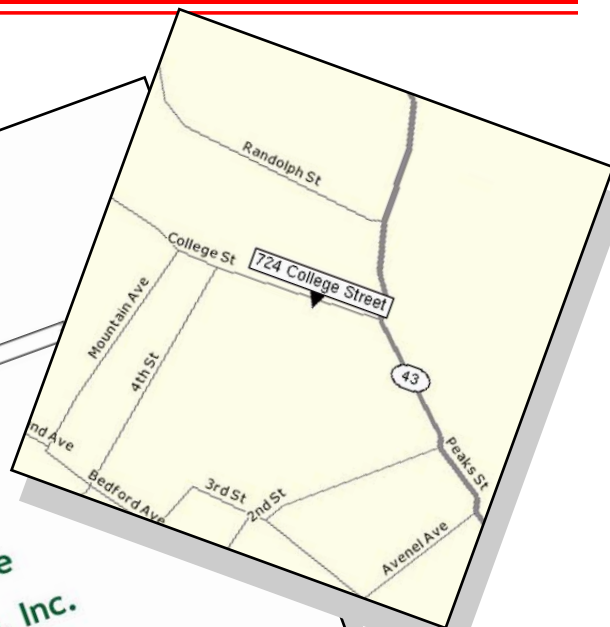
HOLIDAY SOIRÉE

Friday, December 3, 2004
from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM
at 724 College Street, Bedford, Virginia.
Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Please RSVP your attendance to Connie Messier
at 540-586-3059, by Monday, November 29, 2004.

A free will donation will be collected
for the 2005 Student Exchange Program.

www.ci.bedford.va.us/alliance



Slate of Officers for 2005

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Proposed 2005 Board of Directors

1 Year Directors – Term Expires 12/31/05

Bob Bashore
Lucille Boggess
Gloria Gross

Joe Humphrey
Nancy Johnson
Craig Meadows

Julie Mayhew
Charlene McFall
Helen Pope

2 Year Directors – Term Expires 12/31/06

Meg Ballard
Pearl Broesamle
Lee Ann Carr

Nanci Drake
Patty Mason Goggin
Milton Graham

Nita Holt
Teresa Stanley
Al Vincent

3 Year Directors – Term Expires 12/31/07

Will Berry
Jack Gross
Connie Messier

Tom Messier
Sam Broesamle
Bill Pickett

Mike Shelton
Joe Beverly
Charlotte Vincent

2004 Officers

Chairman of the Board Bob Bashore
Vice-Chairman of the Board Craig Meadows
President Al Vincent
First Vice-President – USS Normandy Teresa Stanley
Second Vice-President – France Nita Holt
Third Vice-President – England Pearl Broesamle
First Secretary – Recording Gloria Gross
Second Secretary – Communications Milton Graham
First Treasurer Meg Ballard
Second Treasurer Connie Messier

The duties of the Officers are:

- The Chairman of the Board of Directors represents the Alliance at all public and ceremonial events.
- The Vice-Chairman of the Board will perform the duties of the Chairman if the Chairman is unavailable.
- The President acts as the chief executive officer of the Alliance in charge of the day-to-day administration of the Alliance.
- The First Vice President oversees USS Normandy and Student Exchange committees.
- The Second Vice President oversees Bedford/Normandy Unity Committee.
- The Third Vice President oversees Bedford/Woburn/Ivybridge Unity Committee.
- The First Secretary records meeting minutes; maintains official records of the Alliance.
- The Second Secretary sends out correspondence; maintains up-to-date membership roster; issues meeting notices; Chairs the Membership Committee.
- The First Treasurer receives and accounts for all Alliance funds (except trip funds); pays all bills of the Alliance as directed by the Board of Directors or as otherwise obligated; provides reports to Board.
- The Second Treasurer receives and accounts for all funds for Alliance trips; maintains separate accounts for trip activities; provides reports to the Trip Committee, as organized, and to the Board of Directors, as necessary.

USS Normandy

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Chaplain Greg Cats of the USS Normandy greeted the group at the hotel on Tuesday evening. He recommended that we have dinner at Uncle Louie's, an excellent restaurant in Norfolk that had some of the best desserts imaginable!

On Wednesday morning, the group was checked out of the hotel and ready to go by 5:00 a.m. so that we could be on board the ship by 5:30 a.m. We all passed safely through security and boarded the cruiser before daylight to begin our day's activities.

During the course of the journey, we witnessed many emergency and combat maneuvers, including a man overboard exercise and a sudden stop of the ship from full speed ahead to dead in the water, which is accomplished in less than the length of two football fields!

During the 100-mile cruise out into the Atlantic and the return, members of the Alliance were allowed to visit all of the ship's decks including the officers' ward room and the ship's store. Although the day was chilly and overcast with occasional drizzle, the weather on deck was excellent for observing the various activities on the ship. The crew displayed the weaponry on the ship, including the 50-caliber machine guns and the heavy 5-inch guns. We also were provided with a Navy F-18 fighter jet fly-by, with one of the jets passing close to the ship, breaking the sound barrier just as it passed.

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We were treated to a cookout on the ship's helicopter deck,



The BIA members boarded the ship very early in the morning.

and made to feel very welcome on our journey.

The USS Normandy's Captain Streeter presented awards to outstanding sailors as their proud families looked on and recognized our group, commenting on the relationship between the USS

Normandy and the Bedford community. City Manager Craig Meadows and Captain Streeter exchanged gifts, and the Captain indicated that he looks forward to having the opportunity to visit the National D-Day Memorial in the near future.

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Anne Bond, Eileen and Bill Pickett watched maneuvers from the deck

USS Normandy

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Tired but exhilarated by the day's activities, the group left Norfolk around 6:00 p.m. for our journey back to Bedford.

While there were a lot of tired legs, everyone in the group thoroughly enjoyed the activities, and we hope that we can participate in the USS Normandy's Friends and Family Day in the coming years!

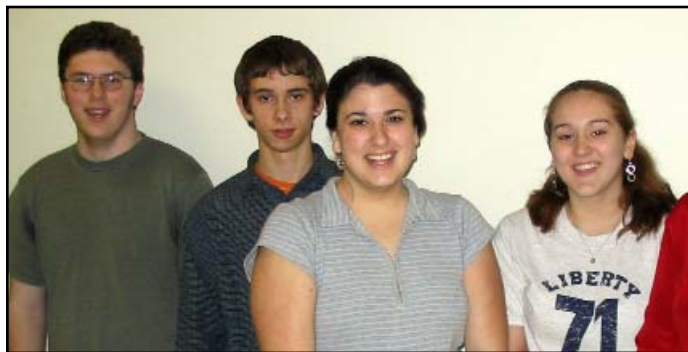
A very tired group left the USS Normandy at the end of the day.



The Student Exchange Program Needs Your Help

Last year the Bedford International Alliance sponsored five local students for the first student exchange with our twinned associations. Those students went to England and France in June with the travel group to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day. They stayed on in France for 10 days after the adults returned to first England and then America.

The students, shown below left to right, were Christopher Hartford, Isaac Podyma, Erin Gilhuly, and Brittany Bolling; Joseph Philbrick was not pictured. These five students had the rare opportunity of getting to know another culture as more than tourists, they got to know France and the French as guests. Few ever have this kind of opportunity.



We want to build on the success of that first student exchange.

The charge of Bedford International Alliance's Student Exchange Policy Committee is to continue to develop and build a strong student exchange program with our twinned associations. The committee will have to begin immediately to plan for English and French student exchanges to Bedford in 2005. This time we will be the hosts – the people of Bedford, Virginia, United States of America.

In order to make this happen, the Committee has to start planning now. One of the major undertakings is to find funding for the many activities which will be planned for the students and their escorts.

We need your donations.

The first of the fundraising activities will be at the upcoming Holiday Soiré. The Committee will be taking

donations at the party to kick off the what is sure to be six-months of active fund-raising. Help us raise the funds needed to make 2005's Student Exchange a success by making a generous donation to the Program.

If you know of companies, firms or individuals who could assist in the fund-raising effort, please let the Student Exchange Committee know. All of the members of the BIA are needed to help make the 2005 student exchange a success.

More details on the 2005 visit by the English and French students will be available at the Membership's Annual Meeting on January 12 and in the next newsletter. Also, the students who were our first participants in the Student Exchange Program will make a brief presentation at the January meeting. Make your plans now to be there.



2005 Membership Renewal

It's now time to renew your membership in the Bedford International Alliance. Please make your check to payable to the "Bedford International Alliance" and mail it to the Treasurer before the end of 2004. Your dues must be up-to-date in order to participate in the activities of the Alliance.

Dues per person	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular membership	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$5.00 (Non-residents or Students)
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Members.	\$100.00

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE # _____ WORK # _____ CELL # _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES) _____

Mail to: Connie Messier, Treasurer, 1527 Newton Circle, Bedford, VA 24523

Bedford International Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 951
Bedford, Virginia 24523